

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method comprising:
  - (a) receiving at least one note into an automated banking machine;
  - (b) assessing the at least one note with a validating device in the machine;
  - (c) storing in a data store in the machine, data usable to identify the at least one note and the user from whom the at least one note was received.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein step (b) includes determining a serial number on the at least one note and wherein step (c) includes storing data corresponding to the serial number.
3. The method according to claim 2 and further comprising prior to step (c);
  - (d) comparing the serial number of the at least one note to data corresponding to at least one serial number previously stored in the data store.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein the at least one serial number previously stored comprises serial numbers of counterfeit notes.

5. The method according to claim 3 wherein the at least one serial number previously stored in the machine comprises serial numbers of notes already stored in the machine.

6. The method according to claim 5 and further comprising taking at least one action if the serial number of the at least one note received by the machine matches the serial number of another note already stored in the machine.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (b) the at least one note is assessed for validity, and wherein in step (c) the data usable to identify the user is stored responsive to determining in step (b) that the at least one note is of suspect validity.

8. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

(d) receiving at least one input from the user to at least one input device on the machine;

wherein in step (c) the data usable to identify the user corresponds to the at least one input.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein in step (d) the at least one input comprises reading data from a card.

10. The method according to claim 8 wherein in step (d) the at least one input comprises a biometric input.

11. The method according to claim 8 and further comprising:

(e) receiving a request from the user to have the machine provide to the user at least one non-cash document redeemable for value in exchange for the at least one note; and

(f) providing the at least one document from the machine.

12. The method according to claim 11 and prior to step (f);

- (g) determining through operation of the machine whether fulfilling the request by the user received in step (e) will result in the user receiving non-cash documents redeemable for value in excess of a number or value;

and executing (f) only if in step (g) it is determined that fulfilling the request by the user will not result in the user receiving non-cash documents in excess of the number or value.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein in step (g) the determination of whether fulfilling the request will result in the user receiving documents in excess of a number of value includes evaluation of at least one prior transaction resulting in the user receiving non-cash documents in exchange for notes in a prior transaction.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein in step (g) it is determined if the user would receive as a result of fulfilling the request in step (e), documents in excess of a particular value in exchange for notes within a given time period.

15. The method according to claim 11 and further comprising:

storing in the data store data usable to identify the at least one non-cash document redeemable for value, in correlated relation with the data usable to identify the user.

5 16. The method according to claim 12 wherein in step (f) the document comprises a money order.

17. The method according to claim 12 wherein in step (f) the document comprises a gift certificate.

18. The method according to claim 12 wherein in step (f) the document comprises a check.

10 19. Computer software operative in at least one computer in an automated banking machine, wherein the computer software is operative to cause the machine to carry out the method step recited in claim 1.